GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
EXPORT PERFORMANCE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the quantity and value of exports of major items during the last three years, item-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Indian exports have declined during the last six months;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment on the sectors affected by shrinking world demand and export potential of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce trade deficit and boost export performance and its diversification alongwith the role of Export Promotion Councils in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

a) to f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 46 FOR ANSWER ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2009 REGARDING "EXPORT PERFORMANCE"

(a) to (f): Export figures for major principal commodity groups during last three years are given in Annexure-I. From October, 08, India's Merchandise Exports have started declining, bringing down the annual growth to 13.6% (in Dollar terms) in 2008-09. The decline in exports since October, 2008 can be attributed significantly to global economic slowdown and recession, particularly in the developed countries, leading to erosion in international demand and prices. The month-wise figures for the merchandise exports for the last six months i.e. for the period April,'09 to Sept.'09 is shown in Annexure II.

As per the preliminary quick estimates of exports during April −September 09, Sectors which have shown significant decline in exports in Dollar terms are Tea (-37.2%), Spices (-27.8%), Cashew (-27.5%), Oil-meals (-42.9%), Iron-ore (-29.5%), Mica, Coal and other ores / minerals, incl. Processed Minerals (-25.6%), Leather & Leather Manf.(-26.6%), Gems & Jewellery (-28%), Basic Chemicals (Other than Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals) (-26.9%), Engg. Goods (-32.1%), Electronic Goods (-32.2%), Cotton Yarn / Fabs. / Made-ups (-31.5%), Jute Mfg. including Floor Covering (-39.8%), Carpet (-29.8%), Handicrafts(-29.8%), Petroleum Products (-43.1%), Plastics & Linoleum (-23.2%).

Government and RBI are closely monitoring the economic developments in the country and internationally. Need based measures are taken, keeping in view the financial implications. To counter the negative fall out of the global slowdown on the Indian economy and the exports, the Government responded by providing carefully designed and calibrated fiscal stimulus packages including the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10 and the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14, to provide support, particularly for the sectors affected by the Global Slowdown. These measures including the measures taken for Market Diversification are given in Annexure −III. FTP 2009-14, with the supportive measures announced therein, has been laid in Parliament, and is also available in the public domain and can be downloaded from the website http://dgft.gov.in. Trade deficit figures for the last year and the first six months of the current year are given in Annexure IV. Each Export Promotion Council is responsible for promotion of exports of a particular group of products, projects and services, and they assist exporters for market diversification, market development and other trade promotion activities.